



# Illinois Commerce Commission

## Supplier Diversity Report Form for Suppliers of Energy

Section 5-117 of the Public Utilities Act states that the Illinois Commerce Commission “shall require all gas, electric, and water companies with at least 100,000 customers under its authority, as well as suppliers of wind energy, solar energy, hydroelectricity, nuclear energy, and any other supplier of energy within this State, to submit an annual report by April 15, 2015 and every April 15 thereafter, in a searchable Adobe PDF format, on all procurement goals and actual spending for female-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and small business enterprises in the previous calendar year.”

Pursuant to Section 5-117, please complete the following form and submit it to the Illinois Commerce Commission in PDF format. This form can be found at the ICC’s website [www.icc.illinois.gov/odca](http://www.icc.illinois.gov/odca). Please submit this PDF form through the ICC’s website at [www.icc.illinois.gov/efiling/pua5117/](http://www.icc.illinois.gov/efiling/pua5117/).

1. Name of Entity: Illinois Energy, USA, LLC

2. Business Address:

<b>Street</b>	<b>3333 Warrenville Road</b>
<b>Street 2 (if applicable)</b>	<b>Suite 300</b>
<b>City</b>	Lisle
<b>State</b>	Illinois
<b>Zip</b>	60532

3. Business Address in Illinois (if different):

<b>Street</b>	Same
<b>Street 2 (if applicable)</b>	Same
<b>City</b>	Same
<b>Zip</b>	Same

4. Person Responsible for Preparing this Report, including Title:

<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Trish McFadin</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Director, Governmental Affairs</b>
<b>Phone</b>	404-561-2891
<b>Email Address</b>	trish.mcfadin@southstarenergy.com

5. Type of Entity (check as many as apply):

☐ Distribution

☐ Generation:

☐ Nuclear ☐ Hydroelectric ☐ Solar ☐ Wind ☐ Other

☒ Alternative Supplier:

☒ Natural Gas ☐ Electricity

☐ Other - please describe:

6. Please identify the person at your entity who can be contacted by diverse suppliers regarding procurement opportunities:

<b>First and Last Name</b>	<b>Michelle Muhammad</b>	<b>John Jamieson</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Director, Supplier Diversity</b>	<b>Vice President, Retail Markets</b>
<b>Phone</b>	630.780.9930	404.685.4025
<b>Email Address</b>	<a href="mailto:muhamm@southernco.com">muhamm@southernco.com</a> <a href="mailto:john.jamieson@southstarenergy.com">john.jamieson@southstarenergy.com</a>	

7. In calendar year 2020, did your entity meet the following revenue criteria?

☒ Yes ☐ No

- For an alternative retail, municipal or electrical cooperative electric supplier, sales or delivery of 500,000 or more kwh
- For an alternative gas supplier or natural gas cooperative, sales or delivery of 500,000 or more dekatherms
- For any other commercial energy supplier, sales or delivery of 500,000 or more kwh

8. In calendar year 2020, did your entity track spending with, contracting with, or procurement from women-owned businesses (WBEs), minority-owned businesses (MBEs), veteran-owned businesses (VBEs), businesses owned by persons with disabilities (DBEs) and/or small-business enterprises (SBEs)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

9. If you checked "no," describe any actions your entity plans to take in the coming year to track spending with, contracting with, or procurement from MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs and/or SBEs.

N/A

10. Please present your entity's total calendar year 2020 spending/total value of contracts with/total procurement from MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs, and/or SBEs:

(a) \$ 203,198.00

Percentage of total: 6.4 %

(b) Illinois totals (if tracked)

\$ 203,198.00

Percentage of total: 6.4 %

11. If your entity tracks spending by type of business, please complete the table below:

	<b>Entity Totals</b>	
<b>Vendor Classification</b>	<b>Spending</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
MBEs	\$20,346	.64%
WBEs	\$15,458	.48%
VBEs		
DBEs		
SBEs	\$167,395	5.2%
	<b>Illinois Totals, if tracked</b>	
<b>Vendor Classification</b>	<b>Spending</b>	<b>Percentage of Total</b>
MBEs	\$20,346	.64%
WBEs	\$15,458	.48%
VBEs		
DBEs		
SBEs	\$167,395	5.2%

12. If you do not have Illinois-specific information, please state why:

N/A

13. Please state whether your entity plans to track its 2021 contracting with, or procurement from MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs and SBEs:

☒ Yes ☐ No

14. If you answered “yes” to Question 13, please describe your entity’s tracking plan.

Illinois Energy, USA, LLC (IE) is tracking all spending related specifically to its Illinois business, including tracking such spending by vendor.

IE is a wholly owned subsidiary of SouthStar Energy Services LLC (SouthStar). In 2018 IE began working with the Supplier Diversity group at IE’s ultimate parent, Southern Company Gas, to develop tracking mechanisms for its spending related to its Illinois business. IE continues to leverage this department for its tracking needs. In addition, IE will continue to work with its suppliers to ensure they have the proper documentation regarding any status as MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs or SBEs (see question 21, below).

15. Please state whether your entity has goals in 2021 for contracting with, or procurement from MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs and SBEs:

☒ Yes ☐ No

16. If you answered “yes” to Question 15, please describe your entity’s 2021 goals and any plan to increase those procurement goals next year.

IE’s goals for 2021 include utilizing the Southern Company Gas Supplier Diversity Department for any new supplier sourcing, and for that group to include IE in potential outreach programs.

17. Please identify any areas of procurement or contracting in which your entity will actively seek greater or additional participation by MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs and SBEs.

IE has a limited number of suppliers supporting its Illinois business. IE will seek greater participation by MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs or SBEs, throughout its vendor selection efforts.

18. Please describe any plan your entity has to encourage MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs and SBEs to submit bids or proposals in those areas.

As stated above, IE will leverage the Southern Company Gas Supplier Diversity Department for outreach programs and opportunities. For example, the Supplier Diversity Department continues to actively participate in many Supplier Diversity conferences and tradeshow that provide opportunities to develop relationships, identify qualifying businesses and further promote business opportunities.

19. What, if any, impediments to obtaining bids or proposals from qualified MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs or SBEs has your entity identified?"

IE has not identified any impediments to obtaining bids or proposals to date.

20. Please identify any steps that the Illinois Commerce Commission can undertake to assist you in identifying qualified MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs or SBEs.

IE is not currently aware of any steps that the ICC can undertake to assist IE in identifying qualified diverse suppliers.

21. Please identify any certifications of MBE, WBE, VBE, DBE or SBE status that your entity recognizes.

IE recognizes the following certifications:

National Minority Supplier Development Council and its regional affiliates

Women's Business Enterprise National Council and its regional affiliates

National Women Business Owners Corporation (NWBOC)

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Small Business Administration's 8(a) Program

U.S. Pan Asian-American Chamber of Commerce

State and County Department of Transportation

City certifications

County certifications

State certifications

Other third-party certifications

22. Please identify any best practices your entity uses to encourage qualified MBEs, WBEs, VBEs, DBEs or SBEs to submit bids or proposals.

IE will leverage best practices identified by the Southern Company Gas Supplier Diversity Department, including:

- Identifying potential partners through leveraging business relationships and participating with national and local assistance agency organizations that cater to small and diverse businesses.

- Conducting capability sessions with potential partners and suppliers, allowing us to learn about their businesses and services, share with them our business needs, and identify potential business opportunities.
- Utilizing an established RFP process to procure suppliers:
  - Aggregate commitments greater than \$25,000, but less than \$150,000 require a minimum of two (2) qualified supplier bids;
  - Aggregate commitments greater than \$150,000 require a minimum of three (3) qualified supplier bids;
    - Supply Chain management and Supplier Diversity collaboratively identify diverse suppliers who are qualified and certified to include on the potential bid list;
    - The list of invited bidders/suppliers is agreed upon by Supply Chain, Supplier Diversity and the business unit leader;
    - A pre-bid meeting is conducted with potential bidders, the project team and Supplier Diversity to answer questions, share business and bid requirements and necessary timelines.